GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:498
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
GENETIC MATERIAL
TARACHAND BHAGORA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exchange of the genetic material such as seeds, plants and germ plasm etc. were used to take place freely between India and other countries earlier ;

(b) if so, whether all the countries are now claiming their right on biodiversity;

(c) if so, whether the Government are formulating certain rules with regard to the exchange of genetic material with various countries; and,

(d) if so ,the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) The UN Convention on Biological Diversity reaffirming the sovereign rights of nations over their biological resources, inter alia provides for facilitating access to these resources to other parties on mutually agreed upon terms and with prior informed consent, subject to national legislation.

(c) & (d) The Governmenthas formulated a biological diversity legislation with broad objectives of conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated knowledge.